

REMARKS

I. PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 3-42 are currently pending.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The claims are amended herein as suggested by the Examiner, to thereby overcome the objections.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 21 AND 25-30 UNDER 35 USC 112

The claims are amended herein to overcome the rejection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 21 and 25-30 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 21 and 25-30 are now allowable.

IV. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claim 1 is amended to recite the telephone number selecting unit selecting a sound reply telephone number for use in *inputting a sound reply* as the sound information concerning sound reply related to the e-mail message to be transmitted from said first information terminal to said second information terminal, and the telephone number notifying unit notifying said second information terminal of the sound reply telephone number selected by said telephone number selecting unit by inserting said sound reply telephone number into the notification-mail.

Somewhat similar amendments are made to claims 3, 8, 10, 13, 14, 21 and 38-42. Support for the amendments is found, for example, on page 37, lines 4-8, and page 38, lines 16-26, of the specification.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest these features.

The above comments are specifically directed to claim 1. However, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding various differences of various other claims over the cited references.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the various dependent claims include additional patentable features for distinguishing over the references. However, the various dependent claims will not be discussed here, as these claims should clearly be allowable for at least the reason that they dependent from an independent claim which should now be allowable.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections are overcome.

V. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By:

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